North Carolina Essentials for Childhood is a statewide collaborative initiative to prevent child maltreatment and promote child and family well-being. Using the principles of collective impact, the Essentials for Childhood leadership and working groups are working to implement the recommendations of the 2014 NCIOM Task Force on Essentials for Childhood. More information about the project can be found here.

Strategic Planning

The North Carolina Institute of Medicine, in collaboration with the Essentials for Childhood Steering Committee and other partners, has worked to clarify the vision and strategic model of the North Carolina Essentials for Childhood Initiative. These conversations are reflected in the snapshot organizational chart below. The NCIOM will continue to engage in strategic planning conversations with each Working Group and other partners to ensure a consistent effort on behalf of children and families in North Carolina.

Essentials for Childhood: Ensuring a coordinated, comprehensive system to support child and family well-being in North Carolina

- **Backbone Organization**
  - NCIOM
  - Maintain strategic coherence and coordinate initiative communication and operations.
  - Collaborate with partners to address:
    - Evaluation
    - Public Awareness & Messaging
    - Data Recommendations

- **Steering Committee**
  - Provide strategic direction for the initiative and champion the work of Essentials for Childhood.

- **Evidence-Based Practice**
  - Working Group
  - Support implementation of evidence-based and evidence-informed programs serving children and families.

- **Trauma-Informed Practice**
  - Working Group

- **Partners & Community Members**
  - Provide support, expertise, and public will for the Essentials for Childhood initiative.

**Evidence-Based Practices Working Group**
Supporting implementation of evidence-based and evidence-informed programs serving children and families.

At the January 23rd meeting of the Evidence-Based Practices Working Group, members identified alignment of evidence-based practice infrastructure across state agencies and organizations as a priority goal for 2017. To start, the group will be working to develop an aligned evaluation and RFP process across state agencies and organizations. For more information, a complete summary of the January meeting is available [here](#).

### Trauma-Informed Practices Working Group

In development.

### Partner Updates

#### NC Pathways to Grade-Level Reading

The [NC Pathways to Grade-Level Reading](#) initiative led by [NC Early Childhood Foundation](#) completed the Learning Teams phase of the data initiative and identified seven measures to move to action first: healthy birthweight, early interventions, social supports for families, positive parent and child interactions, social-emotional health, high quality birth to eight early care and education, and regular attendance. The next phase of Pathways to move to action begins on March 10.

#### Promoting Evidence-Based Practices and Trauma-Informed Care

The [Center for Child & Family Health](#) is supporting implementation of evidence-based programs, treatment for childhood trauma, and prevention of child maltreatment through a number of programs. Through training mental health practitioners, healthcare professionals, and health systems representatives in a number of evidence-based and trauma-informed treatment and prevention practices the Center for Child & Family Health is helping to move North Carolina forward on Essentials for Childhood recommendations to support the implementation of evidence-based programs and trauma-informed practices (recommendations 3.2 and 5.3). Anyone who would like to learn more about the Center for Child & Family Health is invited to join one of the “Intro to CCFH” sessions. The upcoming schedule and more info is at [http://www.ccfhnc.org/intro/](http://www.ccfhnc.org/intro/).

The [North Carolina Pediatric Society](#) project, [Fostering Health NC](#), connects children in foster care to a medical home, and leverages partnerships among key stakeholder groups at the local level to and provide trauma-informed care for this vulnerable population. Fostering Health NC is promoting the use of trauma-informed and other best practices and has been recognized by the AAP’s National Center for Medical Home Implementation as an innovative and promising practice.

### Upcoming Meetings:

- **Steering Committee | February 24, 2017**
- **Evidence-Based Practice Working Group | March 9, 2017**
- **Pathways | March 10, 2017**
North Carolina Essentials for Childhood: Ensuring a coordinating, comprehensive system to support child and family well-being in North Carolina.